

March 5, 1984

LB 970

is correct. But we spent a lot of time in those years also particularly with the MBA degree in a variety of areas in the country trying to ascertain how important is an accreditation program...accredited program. It was true then and I believe it is true now that there are two purposes. If you are looking for a degree that the student can use to assist him in his career because if he has that degree unless it is an accredited program, has limited advantage. If on the other hand you are only talking about some kind of a continuing education program in which you hang the label of an MBA but recognizing it doesn't really give credentials to the individual in terms of the degree in itself being an accomplishment, that is another purpose. But I am further concerned because if once you go to an MBA degree under the criteria for accreditation by the higher standard, you are by those regulations required to have an undergraduate program accredited within five years once you went to the granting of an MBA. So in doing this you are forcing a future policy decision of absolutely preventing Kearney State College from having an accredited undergraduate program in their business school which I think is a shame, or you are forcing the expenditure to make their graduate program accredited. The rule of thumb for those accredited programs at the time five or six years ago was something in the vicinity of four to five hundred thousand dollars annually. Today I suspect it is much higher but it seems to me the choice that you are making today or will be making on 970 is a choice of whether or not you want to limit, yes, you do to some extent, limit the opportunities in the effort to preserve a quality that you can afford or we open the doors and go ahead and authorize at every institution programs which cannot possibly be at the level of quality that I think the students deserve. I would hope at a minimum that this bill would not be passed in order that a more deliberate effort can be made to assess changes in role and mission not looking at just one program but a review of the total role and mission responsibility of each of the institutions. For those reasons I would hope the bill would be indefinitely postponed.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Kahle, please.